

THE OWOSSO TIMES.

VOL. XXVIII

OWOSSO, MICHIGAN, MAY 25, 1906.

NO. 10

THE WHOLE LOT

If we don't heed prevention, we will need a cure. The Old-Monk-Cure

St. Jacobs Oil

Is ready always for all forms of muscular aches or pains, from

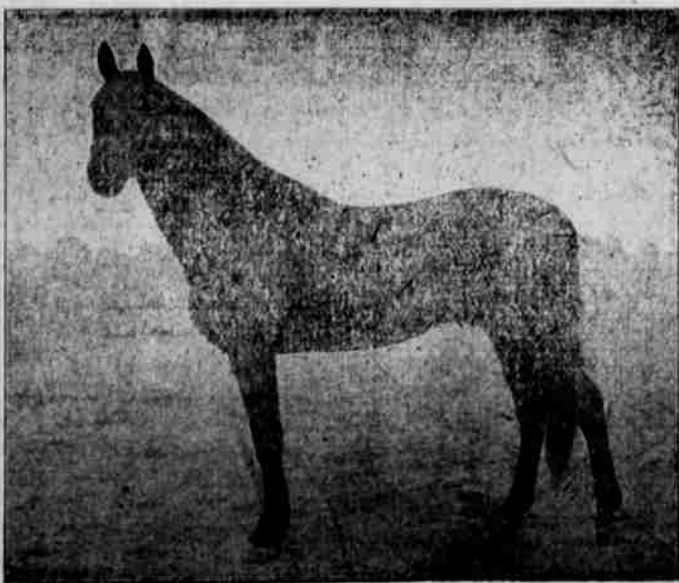
LUMBAGO RHEUMATISM
STIFF NECK SPRAIN
IT CURES ALIKE THE WHOLE LOT.

Special Values for Ten Days

On \$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00 and \$16.00. Suits.

Greatest Bargains on Clothing ever Offered in Centarl Michigan.

Murray & Terbush.
OWOSSO, - MICHIGAN



HAL W.

IS THE HANDSOMEST STALLION IN MICHIGAN.
He stands 16 hands high and weighs 1270 lbs.

He is sired by Hal Dillard 2:04, the sire of Fannie Dillard 2:03, Hal B. 2:04, Hal Clipper 2:07, Cambria Maid 2:08, Hal C. 2:10, Young Hal 2:10, Hallie Rocket (trotter) 2:11, Dillard Online 2:11, also Princess Manlove the sensational two-year-old, which stepped a full mile in 2:10, halt in 1:00 and quarter in 27 seconds—a 150 pait.

Hal W. should prove to be a great sire as he is bred along the same lines as the two greatest sires of today, Mambrino King and Nutwood, all three being out of strictly thoroughbred dams.

For further particulars see or write

WM. GREEN,
West Owosso, Mich.

ESTEY FACTORY A IN RUINS.

Fire Causes Loss of \$200,000—Question of Rebuilding Not Settled—City Must Help—Action Urged at Citizens' Meeting—Vaults Opened and Contents Found Unharmed.

The big Estey Factory A in this city lies in one great mass of ruins. And, with but fragments of the walls and those at the corners remaining standing, and with a chance for the eye to sweep through from end to end, the extent of space covered by this most famous of Owosso's factories impresses the onlooker as never before. Not a vestige of the factory except mere fragments of wall, the smoke stack, and the almost puny looking vault wherein the books of the company were placed, remains today. And it was only by the most determined and continued efforts for hours that the big dry kiln on the west, itself representing a valuation of approximately \$40,000, was saved from the flames. Still further west from the factory, beyond the dry kiln, the lumber yards were saved intact.

The fire appears to have started somewhere in the south part of the main building on Washington street. Its origin is completely shrouded in mystery. It was first seen by a passerby coming towards Washington street, down Corunna avenue. The flames and smoke seemed to come from the basement windows near the south end of the building. An attempt was made to turn in the alarm from the fire department box near the company's office, but the box was found to be out of order and valuable time was lost in consequence before the department could find out where the fire was. About the same time that the alarm was finally communicated to the department the factory watchman had been found and informed of what was taking place in the part of the factory which he had visited and found all right but a short time before. Then immediately after the blowing of the water works alarm, the big whistle of Factory A blew its long dreaded alarm and the entire city knew that a fight which it had feared for many years had come at last.

By the time that the fire department had got to work it had become practically impossible to save the middle building in which the fire started. But a short time seemed to elapse in fact before it had reached the elevator shaft, and in what seemed to the spectators an incredibly short time it had burst through the roof and was pouring great volumes of smoke and flame from it as well as from every window on that side of the building. Walls and floors began to crash down and the terror of the situation began to strike home to hundreds of those assembled on every side to watch the unequal fight. Great cinders rained down in showers, and, with the smoke, and heat, drove the crowds back farther and farther. In the company's offices, but newly remodeled and refurnished at considerable expense, the officers of the company and office employees had been hard at work removing desks and records, the greater part of the latter however being placed in the vault which was supposed to be proof against a fire which might completely destroy the rest of the plant. At the same time however it was fully believed by those responsible for the placing of the books in the vault that the fire would be checked before it reached the offices.

There were two reasons for believing that the fire would be checked with the loss of the south building only, and these two reasons were two strong fire walls. The belief prevails that had the presence of these walls been properly taken advantage of from the beginning of the fight, leaving the south building to the fate which was already sealed for it, and concentrating the fighting at the fire walls, the machine building at the north, together with the offices between the two buildings, might have been saved, and with it a question for the city of Owosso which would be worth many thousands of dollars to it today. Failure to grasp the importance of this action on the part of some and failure on the part of length after length of hose attached to the big Nott engine after it was in place and ready to pour its big streams from the river onto the building, together were responsible for the loss of the big machinery building, the offices, engine room, and nearly came being responsible for the loss of the kilns as well. Instead of having from four to even six streams from the big engine, it was fully a half hour before one line of hose which would stand the pressure was finally attached to the engine and a stream which could be relied on was in play on the west side of the factory. By about this time, too, the Corunna fire department had arrived with its engine and its fight was also made on the west side of the factory where the problem soon became merely that of saving the dry kilns.

In the meantime, however, the suspense had become more and more painful while the minutes almost seemed to lengthen into hours before the last hope was given up that the machine building might, too, be saved. For a long time smoke seemed to be coming from the windows but still no sign of fire itself appeared, and until the flames at last did break out, with all the fury of the fire in the south part of the building, the big crowds continued to hope against hope that the flames could and would still be checked at the last fire wall and the north building saved. With the final breaking through of the fire the last hope for anything except the kiln was gone. The only work, but one which lasted until nearly morning, was now to save the big kiln and the other neighboring property. With dogged persistence this fight was carried on and won.

The only other fire was one which was started a quarter of a mile away, across the river, before the doom of the big factory here was sealed in the eyes of the onlookers—that was the fire at the Appleton ice house a fire quite spectacular in its own sphere, and one which caused consternation of no small degree in its neighborhood where it raged with no effective resistance to oppose it. For a time it looked to many as though the fire was to spread to other parts of the city unchecked and a new terror was added to the minds of many. The Corunna fire department did excellent work at the fire by saving all the property adjacent to the ice house.

It is still too early to get at an exact statement of the loss to the Estey Manufacturing Company, invoices which were locked in the vault with other papers and books, and therefore inaccessible, preventing the early completion of this work. In a general way however it may be said that the loss represented by the destruction of the factory, machinery, and stock will amount to \$174,000. The total insurance available to apply on this loss is probably \$84,000. An interesting, as well as unfortunate feature of the insurance question, at least from the standpoint of the company, is the fact that one policy of \$8,000, taken for a ninety days term, expired at noon of the day before the fire. Still another feature of much the same type was the fact that additional insurance for the amount of \$90,000 had been arranged for, the forms had been printed, and all was in readiness for it to go into effect on the second day following, a little difference in time which amounts to a difference of \$28,000 in insurance money.

Aside from the big fire it was only by the most persistent work that several other losses were averted. The L. C. Hall elevator south of the Grand Trunk track and just across from the Estey factory, the City Mills on the east side of Washington street on the corner of Corunna avenue, the Estey Company's oil house directly across Washington street from the factory, the Salisbury Tire Company's frame factory also on the east side of the street and further north towards the Ann Arbor tracks, and the Parker monument works just across Howard street, to the north of the Estey factory, were all in the greatest danger for some hours and were saved only by the hardest kind of work. At the City Mills it was only by the firemen crawling into the open ends of boilers which were rolled up from the Brandell boiler works that they could protect themselves from the heat sufficiently to keep their stream on the building. The Estey Company's oil house was saved by somewhat similar work, a line of hose being taken into it after it had been on fire a number of times. Several barrels of naphtha were stored in the house at the time which would have caused serious commotion had it caught fire. The Salisbury stock was almost entirely removed from their building and both company and fire department employees worked hard to save the building. Telegraph lines were put out of commission early in the fire so that Treasurer Chas. E. Rigley was obliged to telephone to Durand to get a dispatch through to President J. Gray Estey at Brattleboro, Vt. Telephone wires and poles went the way of the Western Union and early in the course of the fire it became necessary for the O. & C. E. Company to shut off the current from the street car line to avoid the danger which would come with the falling of the trolley wire. Poles for all these companies burned and the falling wires made a bad tangle.

CITIZENS' MEETING.
At the mass meeting at the Y. M. C. A. rooms Monday morning a large number were present representing all parts of the city and citizens in all lines of work. The crowd seemed anxious to get to business, and Mayor Parkill explained that the call had been issued at the request of citizens. He called on A. M. Bentley to preside and H. K. White was chosen secretary. Mr. Parkill then

moved that a committee of five be appointed to wait upon the officers of the Estey Manufacturing Co. and express the regret of the people at the destruction of the plant. Remarks being called for G. W. Detwiler said he believed it was the universal sentiment that the city do anything reasonable to assist in rebuilding the factory. Fred Woodard was of the same opinion. James Osburn said he thought a bonus should be given, so that all would share alike in thus working for the interest of the city. He thought bonuses had made and should continue to make Owosso prosperous. Ira G. Curry said we would feel the effect of the loss of the factory as days went by, but must make it up by having the factory rebuilt, helping in some way. D. M. Christian said he would rather give personally than give a bonus and would give \$500. J. H. Laverock said he would give \$500 to see the factory rebuilt. S. E. Parkill suggested that the company's wishes should be known. M. L. Parker, V. M. White, Dr. Lamb, G. L. Nutson, S. P. Anderson and James Archer spoke. Ald. Sturtevant believed a bonus should be given, spread on the tax roll and paid this year. L. A. Hamblin favored putting whatever amount was necessary on this year's roll. Geo. Charlton, O. L. Sprague, Ald. Lamfrom, L. A. Sanderhoff followed in short talks. J. H. Robbins said he did not suppose the company actually needed help in dollars and cents but that was the practical way to show that we want the factory rebuilt. G. B. McCaughna said the loss of the factory meant a depreciation in the value of our property so great that all could easily afford to pay whatever tax was necessary to get the company to rebuild. W. A. Woodard said he would like to have the owners of the factory come and explain what they would like to have done. I. H. Keeler said the city had always done the right thing and would now. W. B. Runsey said the laboring men were ready and willing to vote for a bonus. A committee consisting of A. M. Bentley, S. E. Parkill, J. Frieske, Fred Osburn and E. J. Sheldon were then selected to consult with the Estey officials and report at a public meeting to be called later.

The committee appointed at the Citizens' meeting in the Y. M. C. A. rooms Monday morning to confer with the Estey Manufacturing Co. officials and ascertain their plans and desires as to the rebuilding of the burned factory, in Owosso, met them during the forenoon and found that they felt that Owosso was a good place for a factory, that the city had always done everything possible to assist them, that they had large interests here, the labor question had given little trouble and that the local stockholders and directors were anxious to rebuild here. Col. J. Gray Estey, of Brattleboro, Vt., who represents the eastern stockholders and controls fifty-four per cent of the stock, was not positive what his brother and he would do, and as the brother was in Europe it would take several days to hear from him, and in the meantime plans could be considered. Col. Estey said the company desired to continue business and had done a large and well paying business; that they might feel inclined to accept a building from the city suitable for their business. They would not ask the city to give it to them but would expect to pay back the amount used to the city without interest.

If rebuilt the factory will probably be larger and better equipped than the old one. The old factory, was 60x375 with an L 60x150 feet, four stories and basement and the new would probably be 80x375 with two L's, one at each end of the main building, each 80x150 feet.

OTHER LOSSES.
Aside from the loss to the Estey Manufacturing Company the two telephone companies and the Lake Ice Co. were the heaviest losers. The loss to the ice company amounts to about \$5,000 with \$2,500 insurance. Some 2,000 tons of ice were stored in the building and about one-half of it was melted. The remainder has been saved. Both the Union Telephone Co. and the Michigan Telephone Co. lost a considerable quantity of expensive cable which together with poles, cable boxes, wire and other attendant expense, including heavy express charges for getting out cable promptly, made the loss of each somewhere in the neighborhood of a thousand dollars. The loss to the Western Union approximated \$200, while that of the Owosso & Corunna Electric Co. will be covered by about \$125.

VAULT OPENED.
The vault of the Estey Manufacturing Co. was opened yesterday morning and all the contents found intact. Some papers lying nearest the door of the vault were somewhat discolored by the smoke and heat but even these were not materially damaged, while the books, invoices, etc., were in a practically perfect condition. The recovery

of these records permitted the work of settlement with the men, and the beginning of making exact estimates of loss to be taken up in earnest. Many of the men were paid off yesterday and others will be today for all work for which they would have been paid last Monday had the books been accessible. Next Monday they will be paid for the portion of last week up to the night of the fire.

QUESTION OF REBUILDING.
The question of the rebuilding of the factory is as much in the air this morning as at any time since the fire. In a general way plans have been made by the company officers showing the dimensions of the building desired. It is proposed to build the main building with 372 feet frontage on Washington street with an ell running 166 feet west on Howard street, utilizing sixteen feet between the former site and the sidewalk on Washington street and an equal space along the south side of Howard street, both of which spaces have been but unsightly waste room and would be better put to such use. The proposed plans call for four stories and a seven foot basement, the offices to be located in much the same position as formerly, the power plant to be in the same position, and the old cutting room to be omitted. The portion running west along the Grand Trunk track would not be rebuilt at this time under the plan now proposed but could be built at any time later, and as far to the west as needed, when the increase in the business demanded. Even with this part omitted the building would have increased capacity over the one destroyed, the main building having a width of eighty feet where formerly it had but fifty feet.

As to the main part of the matter, however, the financial aspect of the case, everything has naturally been at sea awaiting some definite estimate of the cost of rebuilding. The proposition made by Colonel Estey, of Brattleboro, Vt., president of the company, that the company would rebuild if the citizens would advance the money for rebuilding, the company to repay this loan in ten annual installments, without interest, cannot be definitely acted on until it is known whether the building is to cost thirty or seventy-five thousand dollars or more. Naturally, if the cost reaches the latter figure, the interest charges alone would amount to the equivalent of a very neat bonus, getting well up to the equivalent of an \$18,000 bonus of itself. Inasmuch as the city will in the meantime get several times that amount in taxes which will be forever lost to the city unless the factory is rebuilt, it seems to many people to be no more than fair that such an item of interest should be paid by the city or effectively guaranteed, at the earliest possible moment after the amount needed is known. The only other recourse is to raise such an amount by private subscription—and either course will call for quick work of the most strenuous sort.

MRS. CARRIE COLLINS GRANTED NEW TRIAL.

Convicted of Killing George Leachman, Her Hired Man, by Administering Arsenic to Him While He Was Sick.

Mrs. Carrie Collins, of Hazelton, now serving in the Detroit house of correction a life sentence for the murder of George Leachman, was granted a new trial by the supreme court yesterday. Two judges, Grant and Montgomery, dissented. The prevailing opinion is by Judge Ostrander.

The case is a famous one. Mrs. Collins was convicted of killing her hired man by administering arsenic. At the time of his death it was supposed he died of natural causes, the diagnosis of physicians being that his ailment was pneumonia. He was under a doctor's care ten days and a post-mortem showed a diseased condition of the lungs.

On the trial there was some testimony showing that a nephew of Mrs. Collins, a boy named Ira Wright, had died about four months before Leachman's death, and suspicion was created during the trial that he had been poisoned.

Error in admitting this testimony controlled the court in reversing the case. Mrs. Collins is remanded to the custody of the Shiawassee sheriff.

This decision is a notable victory for John T. McCurdy, attorney for Mrs. Collins, who has insisted from the first that the admission of the evidence mentioned was an error and that a new trial would surely be granted by the supreme court.

Webster Davis has been named as one of the delegates from Michigan to the National League of Republican clubs meeting at Philadelphia, June 17-26.